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# The Daily Gamecock, TUESDAY, JANUARY 31, 2012

University of South Carolina, Office of Student Media

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## Westmoreland: *‘Everything happens for a reason’*

**USC pitcher’s mom in remission after being diagnosed with cancer**

**Isabelle Khurshudyan**  
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Cindy Westmoreland, mother of South Carolina pitcher Adam Westmoreland, hasn’t missed an opening weekend since he started playing for the Gamecocks.

As Feb. 17, the day of USC’s first baseball game of the 2012 season against Virginia Military Institute, nears, it could be bittersweet for the mother and son duo.

After battling breast cancer since September, Cindy Westmoreland will be having a double mastectomy on Feb. 8, which might force her to miss opening weekend to recover.

“I’m going to try my best,” Cindy Westmoreland said. “I may not make it opening weekend and it’ll be the first one I’ve missed since he’s been there. Even when he had his surgery, we still went to the games — when he

had his elbow surgery and he didn’t get to play. We were still there. He is a true baseball player. He loves to play baseball.”

Opening weekend is just a bump in the road for the Adam and Cindy Westmoreland after all that they’ve been through together. It’ll mark the one-month anniversary of when Cindy Westmoreland found out that she was cancer-free after 16 weeks of treatment.

**‘You’re nervous anytime someone throws the ‘c’ word around’**

Adam Westmoreland’s sister-in-law’s mother had passed away from breast cancer just a few months earlier, so when his mother was diagnosed, he said it was something that was really difficult at first.

“It was one of those things that I was really, really nervous about because you’re nervous anytime someone

**WESTMORELAND ● 8**



Richard Pearce / THE DAILY GAMECOCK

## Officials weigh education reform

**Provost: Financial aid overhaul needs review**

**Kathryn Kranjc**  
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President Obama’s promise to make college more affordable may have received standing ovations from debt-ridden students, anxious parents and outraged Occupy protestors, but his plans have raised concerns for higher education officials in South Carolina.

In an address at the University of Michigan Friday, Obama announced his plan to control college costs by allocating and redistributing \$10 million in federal funding — in the form of Perkins loans, work-study jobs and supplemental grants to low-income students — based on schools’ efforts to limit tuition increases. He issued a warning to universities, saying, “if you can’t stop tuition

from going up, then the funding you get from taxpayers each year will go down.”

This poses a challenge for administrators at four-year public colleges, where in-state tuition has increased at a national average of 8.3 percent this fall. USC had a smaller tuition increase at 3.9 percent, but at \$10,168, its in-state tuition is highest among public schools in the SEC.

“We don’t know what effect this would have until we know how they will measure ‘cost,’” said Michael Amiridis, USC provost. “It depends on whether they’re comparing apples to apples or apples to oranges.”

The question to which Amiridis referred is whether the proposed law would look at listed tuition or the amount of tuition that students actually pay. According to data from the Office of Student Affairs and Academic Support, state

scholarships, including HOPE, LIFE, and Palmetto Fellow, combined with need-based grants, totaled over \$47 million in 2011, a \$9.1 million increase from 2005. These scholarships, in combination with university scholarships, cover nearly 70 percent of the average student’s tuition, Amiridis said. Both the numbers of and dollar values of these awards, which are the state’s main mode of support for higher education, have continued to rise. Palmetto Fellows awards alone increased 59 percent, and the dollar value of those awards increased 89 percent, according to the Office of Student Affairs.

In comparison, federal aid, including Parent PLUS loans, accounted for over \$222 million of the university’s revenue in 2012. According to Amiridis, withholding this aid would be

**REFORM ● 3**

## Student-athletes see overall increase in GPA

**Sports teams average 3.02, 61 Gamecocks earn perfect 4.0**

**Colin Campbell**  
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It can sometimes be difficult to watch Connor Shaw throw a 50-yard bomb or Bruce Ellington drain 3-pointer after 3-pointer — or not, depending on the night — and not forget that these athletes are students, like many of us.

And while their achievements and letdowns on the field are scrutinized by the media and fans alike, these student-athletes’ classroom performance can sometimes go overlooked.

USC announced the Fall 2011 GPAs of its athletic teams in a release Monday afternoon, boasting an average GPA of 3.202. Last semester marked the 10th consecutive semester the Gamecock athletics program as a whole has averaged above a 3.0.

Upon second look, it’s clear that, while no team’s GPA is drastically lower than the rest, some teams’ GPAs are noticeably higher than others.

In particular, the GPAs of the major sports teams ranked lower than those of Olympic sports; football earned a 2.704, men’s and women’s basketball saw a 2.932 and 2.954, respectively and baseball had a 2.996 average GPA.

Women’s golf (3.664), women’s swimming and diving (3.618), equestrian (3.545) and women’s soccer (3.493) earned the highest GPAs of the university’s 17 Division-I athletic teams.

In fact, USC’s women’s athletic teams scored about 0.3 higher on average than their male counterparts — the nine women’s teams together averaged a 3.427, while the eight men’s teams averaged a 3.151 GPA.

The release announced that equestrian, women’s swimming and diving and men’s track and field earned their highest GPAs on record, and that Fall 2011 was the second-highest achieving semester for men’s basketball and women’s soccer.

USC has about 500 student-athletes listed on the rosters on its official website. Of these students, 61 had a perfect 4.0, another 181 were named to the dean’s list with a 3.5, and 360 made the athletics director’s honor roll with at least a 3.0, according to the release.

In comparison to Spring 2011, USC’s athletic teams saw a 0.065 GPA uptick across the board in the Fall 2011 semester. Softball saw the greatest increase from the previous semester, a 0.298-point jump. Women’s basketball, football and women’s tennis were the only sports to see decreases in GPA — down about 0.129 on average. Women’s tennis saw the biggest decrease by about 0.129 grade points.

“We are very proud of the way our student-athletes have represented the academic mission of the university,” Raymond Harrison, USC associate

**GPA ● 2**



Courtesy of GAC

## Zac Brown Band to play Colonial Life Arena

*Tickets for Grammy Award-winners’ show to go on sale this Saturday*

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Grammy-winning Atlanta country sextet Zac Brown Band will play the Colonial Life Arena on March 23. Performing with opener Trombone Shorty, the band’s Columbia stop is one in a series of five March performances in Southern cities. The winners of the 2009 “Best New Artist” Grammy visited Clemson, Mississippi State and LSU on their Spring 2011 tour in support of their 2010 album, “You Get What You Give.” Four singles from the album have reached No. 1 on country

charts, as well as broken into the Top 40. The album also debuted at No. 1 on the Billboard chart. The band, which has appeared at the Bonnaroo Music and Arts Festival three times, is set to perform at eight music festivals across North America this summer.

Tickets will go on sale for the Colonial Life Arena show this Saturday, Feb. 4 at 10 a.m. and will be available at the Lexington Medical Center box office at the Colonial Life Arena, as well as at Columbia Play It Again Sports in Lexington, online at LMCtix.com and by phone at 1-855-4-LMC-TIX.

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### WEATHER

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### MIX



**Rob Riggle**  
“Step Brothers” comedian performs stand-up act for packed Russell House Ballroom Monday night.  
**See page 5**

### VIEWPOINTS



**College tuition**  
Columnist Molly McCarthy says the Obama proposal to curb rising tuition rates is flawed.  
**See page 4**

### SPORTS



**Men’s tennis**  
South Carolina men’s tennis improves to 5-0 after sweeping weekend competition.  
**See page 8**



# Students, faculty learn self-defense tactics

*USC police teach basic communication, physical skills to thwart attacks*

**Marianna Devenney**  
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Last Friday, the Sexual Assault and Violence Intervention and Prevention office held their first self-defense workshop of the semester.

Funded through the office, the workshop enabled 17 USC women, both faculty and students, to learn the basic skills needed to defend themselves if ever necessary.

“The classes are free and include basics that anyone could learn,” said Emmy-Lou Dickinson, graduate assistant for sexual violence and prevention.

Classes are taught by Lieutenant Teena Gooding of the USC Police Department and her female police officer assistants at the Strom Thurmond Wellness and Fitness Center three times a semester.

“In the classes, participants learn verbal, mental and physical skills for defending themselves,” Dickinson said.

Students learn 13 different rules from what to do

when you feel pressured, coerced or ignored to learning how to send clear messages to your attacker. The classes last about four hours and will take place two more times this semester, on March 30 and April 9.

“These self-defense classes are not only for students, but for faculty and staff as well. On Friday, we had ages from 18 to 60 years old,” Dickinson said.

Outside interest and resources generated the idea for this program, and the popularity continues to grow with female students on campus.

“The class was really fun. I definitely think it was valuable to learn those skills,” said first-year art education student Kelsey Phillips.

“I learned a lot and feel a lot more comfortable now about being able to defend myself if I ever need to,” Phillips said.

The program got on its feet this fall, after a trial run in January 2009. With the help of the USC Department Law Enforcement and Safety, the program has been able to happen more regularly.

“Since we partnered with the USC Police Department, the program has become very successful,” said Michelle Eichelberger, Interpersonal Violence Program Coordinator of the Sexual Assault and

Violence Intervention an Prevention Program. “Every class has been full since fall.”

There has even been a success story based on the accomplishments of this program.

“Last year a student took the class and a few weeks later, a man was following her in a parking lot. She said, ‘Don’t bother me!’ and he left her alone,” Dickinson said. “Had she not learned to tell this man to leave her alone, who knows what could have happened?”

Feedback from the program has been positive. Anonymous comment cards that students filled out after the class praised the program saying things such as “well-needed on campus,” and “good way to learn about the resources on campus for women.”

Because of the positive feedback, the number of students interested continues to grow.

“Twenty people are already signed up for our March class,” Dickinson said. “Because college campuses are such a high-risk area, this really is a good class for everyone to take to learn some basic skills that could save your life.”

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## Gamecock Connections ‘takes Carolina home’

**Program recruits prospective students**

**Dashia Starr**  
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Gamecock Connections, a volunteer recruitment program, has completed its first semester at USC, and current students and the Office of Admissions are taking the university back home to recruit prospective students.

Alexandra Scovel, coordinator for volunteer programs, began the program last semester to connect future students with USC undergraduates.

“We train students who are involved in the program as admissions representatives and volunteers to help us out with recruitment,” Scovel said, “Students are the most effective recruiters.”

Program volunteers serve as representatives at information fairs,

panels and meetings with parents and students.

“We want to give students who want to talk about USC the opportunity to do it,” Scovel said.

Gamecock Connections members have been “Taking Carolina Home,” visiting their former high schools to talk to students about their college experiences. Volunteers are given training and materials to make the most of their visits.

“I like being able to tell students that I used to see in the hallways why I like USC so much,” said Claire Critchley, a first-year biology student.

Critchley visited her former high school, Needham Broughton High School in Raleigh, NC, during winter break, where she held an open discussion about USC with 13 students.

“I would love to do Taking Carolina

CONNECTIONS ● 3

**GPA • Continued from 1**

athletics director for academic services, said in the release. “They have embraced the understanding that the discipline, focus and work ethic

needed for academic success translates directly to the success they experience in athletics and in life.”

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Fall 2011 South Carolina Team GPAs	
Sport	GPA
Baseball	2.996
Men’s Basketball	2.932
Women’s Basketball	2.954
Equestrian	3.545
Football	2.704
Men’s Golf	3.286
Women’s Golf	3.664
Men’s Soccer	3.387
Women’s Soccer	3.493
Softball	3.370
Men’s Swimming and Diving	3.190
Women’s Swimming and Diving	3.618
Men’s Tennis	3.495
Women’s Tennis	3.447
Men’s Track and Field	3.252
Women’s Track and Field & Cross Country	3.348
Volleyball	3.408

Austin Price / THE DAILY GAMECOCK

Courtesy of USC Athletics Media Relations

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**Jeremy Peters**  
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### Media and Advertising in the 2012 Election:

A Reporter’s View on Message Management in Today’s Politics

Jeremy W. Peters is a politics reporter for The New York Times, focusing on the ways campaigns and outside groups use advertising and other media and communications strategies to sell candidates, ideologies and issues. He was previously a media reporter covering the publishing beat — newspapers and magazines — for The Times since June 2010. Prior to that, Mr. Peters had been a metro reporter in The Times’s Albany bureau; he joined the Metro desk in 2007. Previously, Mr. Peters had been a reporter for the Continuous News desk since May 2006, covering business news. He had been a contract reporter in The Times’s Detroit bureau since October 2004, producing news and features for the paper and covering the auto industry in one of its most tumultuous times.

Before joining The Times, Mr. Peters was a reporter for the Virgin Islands Daily News. Before that, he worked as a stringer and an intern for The Times, first while still a student at the University of Michigan.

Mr. Peters was a member of the team that won the 2009 Pulitzer Prize for Breaking News for its swift and sweeping coverage of the sex scandal that resulted in the resignation of Governor Eliot Spitzer.

The New York Times  
**inCOLLEGE**



# ‘Green dorms’ launch on campus

**Sustainable initiative to begin in residence halls**

**Kathryn Kranjc**  
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A new certification program from Sustainable Carolina will put students’ love for the environment to the test in their own dorm rooms.

The Green Dorm Room initiative, launched fall of 2011 by USC EcoReps, aims to encourage students to practice sustainability in their daily lives by having their own “greenness” rated on an online check form. The form can be accessed through the EcoReps website and lists over 50 “green” living suggestions, from keeping a designated recycling bin to performing personal trash audits. First-year English student and Honors Residence Hall EcoRep Joseph DuRant says the program will encourage students to consider the environmental impact of their everyday habits.

“A couple of the big ones are unplugging your electronics, turning off lights when they’re not needed and using Energy Star appliances,” DuRant said. “A lot of students don’t think about those things because they’re not paying for their own electricity.”

Sustainability ratings range four levels from “Mist Green” to “Ever Green.” First-level certification requires small-scale efforts, such as printing on both sides of printing paper and taking shorter showers. The challenges become more intensive as students approach “Ever Green” status by eliminating plastic and cardboard-contained products, purchasing recycled goods and contributing to emissions offset projects. Meggie Patton, a higher education graduate student and West (Green) Quad

intern who had her room certified, says the program is designed to challenge students at all levels of environmental consciousness.

“I didn’t even get the highest level, which was embarrassing for me because I plan on going into sustainable programming,” Patton said. “It made me think about what else I could be doing. There’s always room for improvement.”

The initiative began as an independent project by second-year business student Cailin Preston, with requirements derived from green office certification initiatives at other universities. The program will launch at Green Quad this week, and according to environmental sustainability coordinator Margaret Bounds, 20 residents have already submitted the online form. USC EcoReps will be promoting the program in their own residence halls as well.

“I think there are a lot of students interested in it,” Bounds said. “We’re planning on giving away prizes to make it more attractive beyond bragging rights and a window cling.”

The program is the latest initiative by USC EcoReps to involve more students in sustainability efforts. After helping to host the Carolinas’ first EcoReps conference at USC earlier this month, Bounds hopes to see even more action on campus.

“What I’m most excited about is the potential to reach a lot more students than we’ve ever had before,” Bounds said. “We’re still a fairly new program, but this is the most active group of EcoReps we’ve had, and they’re ready to start bringing people in. You don’t have to go all the way to the ultimate green, it’s just as important to start with something as simple as turning your lights off.”

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Brian Almond / THE DAILY GAMECOCK

Certification as a “green dorm” requires sustainable practices such as recycling, unplugging electronics and investing in energy-efficient appliances.

## CONNECTIONS • Cont. from 2

Home again,” Critchley said, “That’s what I was looking forward to most [about the program].”

Gamecock Connections volunteers attend a series of meetings that prepare them to visit prospective students. During the meetings, volunteers highlight various talking points, including their major, life on campus and why they chose to attend USC.

“It’s about being able to talk to high school students,” said Rixon Lane, a second-year broadcast journalism student. “They want to know more about the university, what the campus is like and what they need to expect.”

Lane visited Lexington High School last fall and plans to stop by Woodruff High School to give students a clear picture of his experience.

“I’m hoping that we can send more current students to be involved in Taking Carolina Home,” Lane said. “High school students want to speak to students who are at the university now.”

Lane would like to

recruit students during Transfer Day and open houses as well.

Gamecock Connections’ schedule is flexible, allowing students to recruit in their spare time. They may volunteer to do as many or few recruitment events as they like.

“It’s been really great for me because I have a crazy schedule,” said Sarah Ferraro, a first-year journalism student. “If you want to get really involved and you want it to be a big part of your time, it can be.”

Gamecock Connections meets two Tuesdays a month from 5 p.m. to 6 p.m. During these meetings, training is provided to help students relay their experience and information about USC effectively.

During fall semester, the program accepted 20 members and the program is currently accepting applications to expand further.

“I’m interested in connecting more with students and being a part of the growing population at USC,” Critchley said.

Gamecock Connections is developing a website and electronic application. Scovel plans to have student executive positions next semester.

“I just think it’s a really fantastic way for the students to be a part of the admissions process,” Lane said, “We hope to take the university farther than [where] it already is.”

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# Marcus Lattimore accepts Alpha Tau Omega bid



Photos courtesy of Alpha Tau Omega

Sophomore tailback Marcus Lattimore has accepted a bid to South Carolina’s chapter of the Alpha Tau Omega fraternity. He is considered an honorary member and will not have to take part in the pledging process.

“We had our normal chapter meeting — had all the brothers come, coat and tie,” said Vice President Dylan Nalbandian. “Lattimore came over and we gave him a formal bid. We just had rush week, so we had 19 rushees and we had Lattimore come over and we presented him a formal bid. He’s not initiated yet, but we’re going to have a formal initiation with maybe the nationals guy come down. We’re going to have that probably within the next couple of weeks.”

Nalbandian said that the fraternity would reach out USC coach Steve Spurrier, who was a member of Alpha Tau Omega’s University of Florida chapter, to attend the formal initiation. One alumnus is always present during the initiation, and the fraternity hopes Spurrier will fill this role.

Alpha Tau Omega is a traditionally white fraternity, and Lattimore will be the USC chapter’s first black member, according to chapter members.

— Compiled by Isabelle Khurshudyan



## REFORM • Continued from 1

troublesome as the university scrambles to cut costs while trying to control tuition increases. Recent efforts have included cutting less popular degree programs, including Italian and several masters programs, halting faculty merit salary increases, not refilling positions and reducing the university’s facilities staff. Amiridis also pointed out that complying with federal regulations itself takes monetary effort.

“We look at cutting everywhere we possibly can before proposing any increases to the board of trustees,” Amiridis said, and added that tuition for the 2012-2013 academic year will be finalized in July.

A second aspect of Obama’s proposed legislation, which still awaits congressional approval, would also hold states accountable for cost-containment.

The financial aid overhaul would award \$1 billion to states that make an effort to curb higher education costs in a “Race to the Top” program.

However, given South Carolina’s repeated refusal to accept federal stimulus money (Sanford turned down \$700 million for education funding in 2009 and Nikki Haley rejected funding for health care reform), administrators aren’t sure how much collaboration to expect. But Vice Provost Helen Doeringhaus says the university is more than willing to accept a hand.

“I’m cautiously optimistic,” Doeringhaus said. “I hope the state seriously considers the challenges our families face.”

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Student athletes hit mark in classroom

Gamecock athletes have been making great strides both on and off the field recently. University statistics show that athletes competing in sports and the classroom have been making marked improvements in their grade performance.

“At the end of the day, most college students walk off the field and into an office building, utilizing their degree in their career rather than their athletic abilities.”

than others, overall, we’re impressed with the end result.

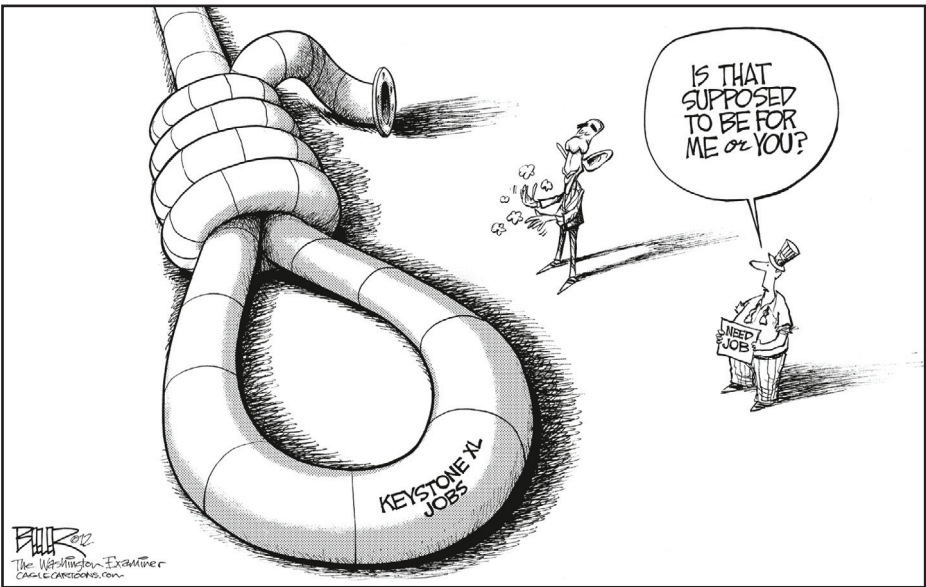
With that said, it’s important to point out that student athletes are graced with many free and complementary aids specifically tailored to their needs.

Perks ranging from tutors designated for athletes to a brand-new facility dedicated to athletic academics — the Dodie — athletes certainly have their fair, if not more than fair, share of tools at their disposal to succeed in the classroom.

It’s good to hear that these tools are being put to use and that athletes haven’t lost the true focus of college and realize that an education comes first. At the end of the day, most college students walk off the field and into an office building, utilizing their degree towards a career rather than their athletic abilities.

So, while sports statistics are usually the ones prone to scrutiny, whether it be the latest sack total on the field or drop-in time in the water, it’s refreshing to see continued improvement in the classroom as well.

With full rides and a \$12.6 million facility backing them, we sure hope our athletes aren’t striking out in class.



Rising educational costs must be tamed

Financing college often threatens future

Following a year that saw American student loan debt surpass that of American credit card debt for the first time in history, President Obama announced plans to cut federal funding of public universities that continue to annually raise tuition, during a speech at the University of Michigan on Friday.

Graduate and postgraduate degrees have become the expectation, not the exception for those hoping to obtain a profitable career, placing the demand for college degrees at colossal heights.

The problem is, current tuition costs are leaving students entering the job field with extensive amounts of knowledge, but not enough money to afford a shovel to dig themselves out from the massive debt they have acquired over the course of their education. What’s worse, as the number of college students increases, so does the capital needed to fund the requirements of expanding class sizes.

Costly endeavors necessary for growing colleges, like larger classrooms, more dorms and hiring new teachers, compounded with the current rate of inflation, creates a vicious economic cycle that makes demanding lower costs for entry a daunting and almost counterintuitive course of action.

Clearly, changes are needed to create a more affordable system of higher learning, but is threatening to slash federal funding really the most beneficial and dynamic solution that the

president can implement to help young people?

This is not to say that the government shouldn’t have the ability to maintain accountability in the efficiency of subsidies; if federal aid is accepted by public universities, federal regulation should be as well. But why not create incentives rather than impose mandates?

The government should encourage competition in financial proficiency among universities, rewarding those that cut useless spending from budgets and utilize the Internet and other technology to bring world-class education to students of all statuses in the United States at a much lower cost.

It is in the best interest of the president and his citizens of all ages that the next generation of employees be well-educated and not suffocated by unpaid loans without even having a chance to make a living themselves. With the current state of the economy and nation overall, there is much at stake in any decision affecting the future of America’s youth.

After all, these young people are almost directly responsible for putting Obama in the White House, with 66 percent of voters under 30 casting a ballot in his favor.

In fact, 18- to 24-year-olds were the only age group to show a statistically significant increase in voter turnout in 2008, according to census data. It is certainly not coincidental that Obama’s renewed focus on this demographic comes at a time where re-election looms ever closer on the November horizon.

Regardless of the point in his presidency, Obama owes it to his young supporters to do everything in his power to ensure that they have the opportunity to obtain both full minds and full bank accounts, instead choosing between the two.

Sandusky’s plea for visitation rights ridiculous

Allegations alone offer grounds for denial

Jerry Sandusky is still making headlines nearly three months after charges were filed against him for over 50 counts of allegedly sexually abusing children. As a condition of his house arrest while he awaits trial, Sandusky cannot have any contact with children, period.

This is understandable. His actions Friday, however, were not.

Sandusky petitioned a judge to alter his agreement so that he may see his 11 grandchildren under the supervision of their parents.

Considering the fact that investigations are currently under way

regarding sexual abuse allegations from a member of his own family, who is under the age of 18 and likely one of his grandchildren, Sandusky’s request is ludicrous and should be promptly rejected.

In an ideal world, the public opinion regarding any defendant in a criminal case is innocent until proven guilty. Sandusky’s case, however, provides a rare exception to this rule.

At this point, we can presume guilt beyond a reasonable doubt, at least to the extent that we can justify preventing him access to children in his home while he awaits trial. Consider the evidence against him: more than 50 counts of sex crimes against children spanning decades, with victims and witnesses recounting eerily similar situations.

Now, he wants to see his grandkids, whom he may have assaulted, and he is also asking that friends be allowed to visit.

He hasn’t been convicted yet, so we cannot legally deny him certain rights, but the possibility of him spending a second with a child has horrific implications.



Carl Brzora  
Second-year psychology student

Unionized teachers inhibit progress in schools

Labor groups slow progress, act as barrier to improving public education system

Many people within the field of education are against measuring teacher accountability. Their concerns are easily understood — one of the largest being objectivity. How would one measure teacher effectiveness? Would it be determined by test scores? A jury of their peers? District panels sitting in on classes? Some have even suggested student observations, though I fail to see how that would be even remotely objective.

Teachers’ unions are especially against accountability measures and fight dirty when it comes to people who take a stand against them. Many states have required unions for public school teachers, meaning that just to teach in the state means you must pay dues, attend meetings and not act contrary to the beliefs of the union.

In fact, 30 states require teachers to join unions. So much for living in a country where we have

freedom to make our own choices.

Many of these unions are holding back opportunities to better our schools. Ineffective teachers are paid to sit alone in New York classrooms, which requires that their salary continue to be paid while these teachers literally clock in and sit with other ineffective teachers. They can read, socialize, twiddle their thumbs — do anything but work.

There are even some teachers in these areas who have not been in a classroom since 2006 and are still being paid. Firing incompetent teachers has become next to impossible due to teachers’ unions.

So, how can we get away from the influence of the unions? Even in South Carolina, where less than 4 percent of teachers belong to unions, the teacher attrition rate is incredibly low, with less than 1 percent of teachers fired. This is caused by the U.S. political climate, which is a result of the majority of states having unions.



Leia Cain  
Education research graduate student

IT’S YOUR RIGHT

The goal of The Daily Gamecock’s Viewpoints page is to stimulate discussion in the University of South Carolina community.

All published authors are expected to provide logical arguments to back their views.

The Daily Gamecock encourages readers to voice opinions and offers three methods of expression: letters to the editor, guest columns and feedback on dailygamecock.com.

Letters and guest columns should be submitted via email to gamecockeditor@sc.edu. Letters must be 200 to 300 words in length

and include the author’s name, year in school and area of study.

We also invite student leaders and USC faculty members to submit guest columns. Columnists should keep submissions to about 500 words in length and include the author’s name and position.

The editor reserves the right to edit and condense submissions for length and clarity, or not publish at all.

All submissions become the property of The Daily Gamecock and must conform to the legal standards of USC Student Media.

About The Daily Gamecock

The Daily Gamecock is the editorially independent student newspaper of the University of South Carolina. It is published daily during the fall and spring semesters and nine times during the summer with the exception of university holidays and exam periods. Opinions expressed in The Daily Gamecock are those of the editors or author and not those of the University of South Carolina.

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CORRECTIONS

If you find an error in today’s edition of The Daily Gamecock, let us know about it. Email sagckview@mailbox.sc.edu and we will print the correction in our next issue.



# IN THE FACE: RIGGLE EARNS GIGGLES



Nicole DeBartolo / THE DAILY GAMECOCK

'Step Brothers' comedian performs at USC Monday  
**Kristyn Winch**  
KWINCH@DAILYGAMECOCK.COM

The Russell House Ballroom nearly reached capacity Monday night as actor and comedian Rob Riggle entertained a diverse crowd with hilarious stories taken from his own experiences, peppered with curse words and outrageous sound effects.

Students lined up as early as an hour before the performance, which was sponsored by Carolina Productions.

Fourth-year media arts student and USC's spring comedy competition winner Matt LaBorde opened up for Riggle with a 15-minute set. LaBorde's jokes covered a wide variety of subjects, ranging from his family and friends to more serious topics including date rape and testicular cancer.

In one of LaBorde's opening jokes, he told the crowd that he would like to go abroad so he can say that all the American films he's seen are now posh foreign films.

In response to his friend Jean-Claude

describing a French film, LaBorde would say, "I did see, though, an indie film [that] killed at Sundance. It chronicles the struggles of an African-American family in the heartland of the Southeast, called 'Madea Goes to Jail 2.' Now that's art."

In another joke, LaBorde imagined a world in which parents retaliated against "your mom" jokes by making fun of their kids, exchanging "your son" jokes with each other:

"Your son is so poor and it is all your fault."

LaBorde also shared kooky witticisms from his grandfather including, "I think we should stop printing money and start selling our bodies."

Immediately after LaBorde finished his set, Riggle took the stage to an enormous round of applause.

"You guys are looking good for real," Riggle said before visually surveying the crowd, rating audience members' physical appearances by nodding, pointing and giving "yes" and "no" responses to various students.

Riggle told the audience he had spent some time on campus Monday and thinks USC's mascot is awesome.

"The Gamecocks. Deal with it!"

Riggle said.

It wasn't long before the Gamecock conversation got sexual, as Riggle said, "I'm sure the ladies are getting tired of it," in reference to being bombarded with innuendos and pick-up lines like, "Hey, my c--k's game if you are."

Riggle has spent a lot of time in the South, but still finds Southerners entertaining. He shared a story about encountering a few snow flurries during a recent Nashville tour stop and the ridiculous reactions of the locals, comparing snow in the South to "a nuclear war."

"To the storm shelter! We're all gonna die!" Riggle said.

The majority of Riggle's act was comprised of elaborately shared true stories from the actor's life, including a tale about his freshman roommate who owned a boa constrictor and another about being a hippie "for a day" to pursue a girl named Astrid.

Other jokes included comparing the Kardashians to the cast of "Swamp People," a disgusting description of men's bathrooms at football stadiums (which Riggle compared to "the gates of hell") and 45-minute phone conversations with

his best friend during which the pair describe "in vivid detail how we would defile each other's mothers."

At the end of the show, Riggle opened the floor for a five-minute Q&A with the audience. Most of the audiences' questions involved asking the actor to spout out lines from "Step Brothers" and "The Other Guys" or reenact the police scene from "The Hangover," much of which he did with a smile. The audience also learned that many of Riggle's memorable lines and scenes were improvised by the actor (including "in the face").

But some questions provided insight into the actor's life outside of show business.

One student asked Riggle why he left "The Daily Show" to which he jokingly said, "I just got tired of Stewart's bullsh--t," before honestly stating that he left because his commute from California to New York kept him away from his family too much.

Another student asked Riggle if he was still enlisted in the Marine Corps, which prompted the actor to reveal that he will be retiring this summer after 22 years of military involvement.

# 'The Grey' survives on Neeson's name

Philosophical thriller compensates for cheap thrills with star power



Courtesy of collider.com

**"The Grey"**  
**NOW IN THEATERS**

**Director:** Joe Carnahan  
**Starring:** Liam Neeson  
**Rating:** R for disturbing images including grisly images and pervasive language

**B-**

**Liam Neeson (second from right) stars as John Ottway, a marksman working in Alaska, in new film "The Grey."**

Of all the modern day action stars, none have been a bigger box-office draw over the past couple of years than Liam Neeson, a man who has established himself as more of a badass than most of the actions stars half his age.

In fact, he has pulled off so much macho bravado in his action roles that people are replacing Chuck Norris jokes with his name.

His bravado continues to be put on display in "The Grey," a movie that actually isn't as action-packed as "Taken" (2008) or "The A-Team" (2010). "The Grey" is more of a philosophical thriller.

While there are no gunfights or explosions, the movie contains a satisfying amount of thrills that consist of jump scares and gore.

Neeson stars as John Ottway who works as a marksman in Alaska killing wildlife that threaten an oil drilling team. Like everybody else working there, he is a deeply troubled man with a mysterious past so dark that it almost forces him to kill himself. After completing the job, Ottway and the team embark on a plane ride back home, which eventually crashes as a result of the intense weather.

Unsurprisingly, Ottway, along with a few other men, survive the crash and find themselves stranded in the middle of nowhere, battling merciless weather and mortal injuries. Their attempts to survive prove more difficult than expected as they discover that the plane is being hunted down by a pack of savage wolves from a nearby den.

Afterwards, "The Grey" gears toward survival film territory as each member of the group gets

picked off one by one by the wolves.

We know that these men are going to die eventually, but it's still a thrill to see the wolves lunge out of nowhere and feed on our heroes.

On that note, being the film that it is, "The Grey" isn't exactly what people expect of it. There is plenty of gory violence as we see the wolves devour the entrails of whoever they kill, but the survivors actually spend more time running away from the wolves than confronting them.

"The Grey" makes up for this by presenting itself with an artsy, philosophical feel. Director Joe Carnahan gives us a surprisingly deep script that mimics anything that Ernest Hemingway or Jack London could have written regarding men surviving under extreme conditions.

The movie takes on themes such as the meaning of life and spirituality, as shown most notably when Ottway pleads to God for help, but after receiving no response, he replies, "I'll do it myself."



# Columbia eateries take twist on tacos



**Cantina 76, El Mariachi**  
cover spectrum of specialty,  
traditional recipes

Photos by Parker Jennette / THE DAILY GAMECOCK

**Cantina 76's specialty Gouda brisket taco (above), with fried banana peppers, tops the list of Columbia's best tacos.**

**Chloe Gould**  
CGOULD@DAILYGAMECOCK.COM

There's an art to the perfect taco — expertly sliced, diced and seasoned with just a hint of cilantro or touch of homemade salsa. It sounds silly, but every fan of the Mexican cuisine staple knows it's true. From slow-cooked pulled pork to fried shrimp or fresh fish, the city's finest eateries have thrown their own fine-tuned recipes into the taco game. And The Mix is here with our take on each of Columbia's simple, and specialty, taco hits.

Cantina 76 — 2901 Devine St.//////////

Taqueria and bar Cantina 76 is best known for two things: specialty tacos and unique margarita concoctions. A favorite for birthday dinners and pre-downtown dinners, Cantina 76 strikes a balance between upscale and casual. The Devine Street spot's list of tacos — which includes fried chicken, chicken pesto and barbeque shrimp — doesn't get too crazy with outlandish flavors but picks the perfect toppings for an expansive showing of fillers. Tacos are \$2.99 each and, in perhaps the Cantina's only downfall, are only served in soft flour tortillas — there's no soft or hard corn shells like most of the taqueria's competitors. But the buck doesn't stop with their already impressive list



of menu all-stars. This week's features include a Gouda brisket taco with chipotle agave barbeque, smoked Gouda and fried banana peppers, all for the same \$2.99. Cantina 76 is open Monday through Thursday 11 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. and 4:30 to 9:30 p.m., Wednesday through Friday 11 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. and 4:30 to 10 p.m. and Saturday 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. It is closed on Sundays.

El Mariachi — 1078 Sunset Blvd. //////////

El Mariachi is the epitome of authentic Mexican flavor. The hole-in-the-wall grocery store and back-of-the-building restaurant serves up four types of tacos: carne asada, chorizo, al pastor (pork) and lengua (beef tongue). And let's be real, nothing says authenticity quite like a beef tongue taco. The "Fines de Semana" also include a few specialty picks, including pork skin and tripe tacos, ingredients that go back to the authentic, in-house Mexican cuisine. Each of the fresh-made singles, mixed and matched for a full meal, stay around \$3 and are even better paired with one of El Mariachi's famous papusas or tortas. The waitress and cooks speak Spanish and only Spanish, and the corner jukebox blares the best of Aventura, Wisin y Yandel and, with a few confused faces, Adele. It's an experience. El Mariachi is open daily until 10 p.m.

Casa Linda — 2009 North Beltline Blvd. /////

Casa Linda has cornered the family market in their pursuit of authentic Mexican fare with bright colors and familiar flavors decorating the now four Casa Linda Columbia locations. The North Beltline stop sits in front of Salsa Cabana, making the perfect bundle of cuisine and dancing, and draws in the masses with their Monday and Tuesday 99-cent tacos. The restaurant — which started as a one-store family business — sticks to the basics and doesn't disappoint in their simple list of taco selections: beef,



chicken and steak. And if tacos aren't your thing — and you haven't given up so far on our look at the city's best tacos — Casa Linda's full menu borders on overwhelming with lists of a la carte combos, stir-fried shrimp and vegetarian fajitas. Casa Linda is open daily 11 a.m. to 10 p.m.

TakoSushi — 1115 Assembly St. //////////

TakoSushi's Far East and Southwest fusion doesn't stop with the name — or the trademarked koi fish, chili pepper ying yang. The Assembly Street favorite boasts a menu of "takos" that fall on both sides of their signature pairing of flavors. Tempura fried baha fish and pan-seared tilapia fulfill every craving from the Far East, while lime pork and green chile chicken or beef brisket add a more refined touch to classic Southwest cravings. And although the TakoSushi plates are beyond delicious — and worth every penny — they are the most expensive of the bunch. There's not an a la carte option for takos; they are only served as a plate with ranch beans and spicy slaw for \$15. And, for an extra touch of unique Southwestern flavorful charm, top your dish with a fried egg for just \$1. TakoSushi is open Monday through Thursday 11 a.m. to 10 p.m., Friday 11 a.m. to 11 p.m., Saturday noon to 11 p.m. and Sunday 11:30 a.m. to 9 p.m.

Qdoba — 2006 Devine St. //////////

Qdoba beats out the competition in the tacos-on-the-go category, achieving the best fast flavor and meal combos. The chain's tacos follow the lead of its savory burritos, featuring chicken, pulled pork, steak and beef — with your choice of soft flour and crispy corn tortillas. A single Qdoba taco treat rings in just under \$2, with a three-taco combo coming in just over \$5. And it's the add-ons and perfectly paired meals that make Qdoba the victor in the on-the-go showdown. The "Craft 2" menu offers two tacos, with your choice of another Qdoba favorite, including tortilla soup, quesadilla or Mexican gumbo, all for \$6. Qdoba in Five Points is open 24 hours Friday and Saturday, Monday through Wednesday 7 a.m. to 11 p.m., Thursday 7 a.m. to midnight and Sunday midnight to 10 p.m.



Photos by Parker Jennette / THE DAILY GAMECOCK

**TakoSushi, known for their Far East and Southwest infusion cuisine, offers fish as well as green chile taco plates.**

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**THE GREY ● Continued from 5**

But the main attraction and the box-office draw to this film is Neeson. Like the alpha male in the wolf pack, he's the guy that everybody turns to since he appears to be the expert on wolves. We see him pound a couple of these wolves until they're either done or dead and show his dominance within the group of survivors.

There is a big difference between this role and all the other roles in the action films Neeson has done in the past

couple of years, like "Taken" and "Unknown" (2011). The script gives Ottway plenty of depth as an emotionally damaged man, as we see snippets of Ottway's lost love and his emotionally distant father.

As for our beastly threats, the wolves in this film are a mixture of animatronics, CGI and reality. They come off as convincingly more frightening than any of the wolves from "Red Riding Hood" (2011) and the "Twilight" films. In fact, these wolves are sketched as much larger in temperament and

size than in real life, particularly the alpha male, giving "The Grey" the feel of a modern day monster film with the wolves coming off as demons during the nighttime.

The story may feel familiar and the ending will definitely make some audiences feel cheated, but "The Grey" is still a thrilling and entertaining movie that will leave you thinking more than a typical action film.

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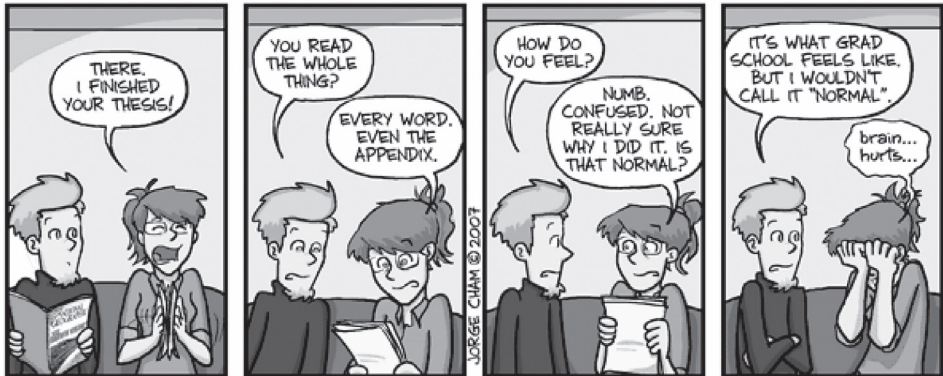
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PHD • JORGE CHAM



HOROSCOPES

Aries

Provide excellent service, with the finest ingredients. Stand for quality. Use resources with maximum efficiency for real satisfaction. Share a feast.

Leo

You can find a really sweet deal today. Save more than you spend, and stash more pennies into savings. Pay back a debt. Dream up a new income source. Ideas are popping.

Sagittarius

Old considerations could hold you back, even though a loved one is anxious to make improvements. Make adjustments to get the perfect picture. Make time for love.

Taurus

All turns out well, although it may not go according to plan. Adaptability and a sense of humor are where the fun comes in. Your intuition's right on target.

Virgo

Your partner's getting impatient. Let them take charge. They have energy and enthusiasm, so enjoy the ride while they do the heavy lifting. Extra effort earns a bonus.

Capricorn

You're boiling over with ideas. Channel this energy in the right direction to get the advantage. Children or youth may play an important part.

Gemini

You're getting into your studies, and, with the support of a loved one, your career zooms forward. There's a bonus available if you move quickly.

Libra

Show respect and gain love. Do what you can to help and take urgent action for a cause that's important to you. This feeds your spirit. There's more work coming.

Aquarius

Complete the month with a home improvement project that makes a difference in your quality of life, no matter how small. Play for no particular reason.

Cancer

There's some distance in the picture. Actual travel could be involved, or just an exotic meal or a cultural experience. Education can be fun.

Scorpio

You can figure out a coming trend. Employ an exotic theme. Do something that you promised for a loved one, and you're the one who feels good about it.

Pisces

Your willingness to listen and learn is attractive. Assertiveness equals romance. You can accomplish anything you set your mind to. Add a little sweat equity.

THE SCENE

TODAY

**"THE ARTIST"**  
3 p.m. / 5:30 p.m. / 8 p.m., \$6.50 students / \$7.50 general  
Nickelodeon Theatre, 937 Main St.

TODAY

**BODY WORLDS VITAL**  
10 a.m. to 8 p.m., \$18 adults  
South Carolina State Museum, 301 Gervais St.

TODAY

**CORNHOLE TOURNEY**  
9 p.m., free  
Tin Roof, 1022 Senate St.

TOMORROW

**JAMIE'S ELSEWHERE, ICON FOR HIRE, THESE HEARTS**  
6 p.m., \$10  
New Brookland Tavern, 122 State St.

**THE FOUNDER OF ESPN BILL RASMUSSEN**  
8 p.m., free with Carolina Card  
Russell House Ballroom

Crossword

Edited by Wayne Robert Williams

01/31/12

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ACROSS

1 Gaucho's weapon

5 What two lanterns in the Old North Church signified

10 Shenanigan

14 "Paradise Lost" setting

15 Assessed

16 Holder of small tools

17 Symbolic gifts

19 José's hand

20 Like some ink cartridges

21 Vitruvian Man is on some Italian ones

22 Exasperate

25 Pago Pago resident

28 Sosa's 1,667, briefly

29 Conspiracy theorist's worry

30 Zeno, notably

32 Styled after

35 Soother for men

39 Stadium sound

40 Shake

41 Victory goddess

42 \_\_\_ Deion: NFL nickname

43 Bk. after Proverbs

45 Indigenous language

50 Selectric selection

51 Became one lane, say

55 Hammer feature

56 President's option, and a hint to the puzzle theme in 17-, 22-, 35- and 45-Across

58 Soprano Te Kanawa

59 Gets zero mpg

60 First name in bike stunts

61 Fall runner's goal, perhaps

62 Requirements

63 Take it easy

DOWN

1 Whack

2 Glade target

3 "Hello, Dolly!" surname

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8	9		10	11	12	13
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Solutions from 01/30/12

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37 Gin flavoring

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42 Dipstick

43 Door to the street

44 Brusque

45 Kisses and then some

46 Kate's TV roommate

47 Regal topper

48 Frère de la mère

49 Blunt, as truth

52 "Houston, \_\_\_ had a problem"

53 Nice warm times

54 Dimbulb

56 Verb associated with blame

57 Neruda's "\_\_\_ to Conger Chowder"


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Sudoku

By The Mephram Group

01/31/12

9						5
	5		4	3	1	
		1				8
			1		3	6
		7	9	4	8	1
	3		5		2	
	9				8	
			7	5	4	2
2						3

Level 1234

How to Play  
Complete the grid so each row, column AND 3-by-3 box (in bold borders) contains every digit 1 to 9.

Solution for 01/30/12

9						5
	5		4	3	1	
		1				8
			1	3		6
	7	9	4	8	1	
3		5		2		
9				8		
		7	5	4		2
2						3

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# Men's tennis sweeps weekend competition

*Gamecocks start season 5-0 after beating Elon, Georgia State, Davidson*

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The men's tennis team reached a mark of 5-0 on the season after yet another satisfying weekend, as senior Ivan Machado fought through some feisty matchups and set the pace for the Gamecocks as they overwhelmed Elon with a 7-0 score, controlled No. 69

Georgia State, 6-1 and decimated Davidson, 7-0. "It was three competitive matches," said head coach Josh Goffi. "The scores made it seem like a landslide, which just means that our guys brought it every single time and we competed well." Friday saw an dominating performance by the men's team over the Elon Phoenix, as they swept every matchup without much resistance. The doubles team of sophomore Chip Cox and freshman Andrew Adams provided the most lopsided

victory, defeating their opponents 8-1. The other two doubles matchups were nearly as one-sided, each posting scores of 8-3. Machado was the lone senior performing on the day, whose singles challenger was constantly and visibly infuriated with the chair umpire as Machado laid down one incredibly placed shot after another, and eventually laid him out with a 6-4, 5-7, 6-3 victory. Freshman Kyle Koch provided the most convincing singles victory, overpowering his opponent, 6-2, 6-1. Sunday morning the Gamecocks faced a more formidable foe in No. 69 Georgia State, but the team was able to pull off an impressive win in the first half of the day's doubleheader. Koch and sophomore Nick Jones won both their doubles and singles matches. The two paired up and finished off their Panther opponents, 8-4, then broke off into their singles contests, where they continued to roll. Jones came from behind to win a three-setter, 2-6, 6-3, 6-3. Koch picked up where his singles game left off on Friday, dominating yet another opponent, this time with a score of 6-0, 6-1. Unfortunately for the Gamecocks, they dropped their first team point of the season, as Carl Eguez was unable to finish his singles match in full and fell in a tiebreaker to end the first half of Sunday's doubleheader at a score of 6-7 (10), 6-1, 0-1 (13). "One thing we need to keep getting better at is controlling our own destiny, controlling our own matches," Goffi said. "We don't want anybody to dictate against us; we just try to dictate the match and the pace of the match. We just try to control everything we can, and everything else we just try to adapt to." After a break, the men took their coach's message to heart and came out hot against Davidson, and Machado again drew the opposition's most animated player. After doubling to a victory with freshman Thiago Pinheiro (8-1), Machado was on the verge of winning the deciding set of his singles match. The Gamecocks on the sideline were extremely vocal in their support, and when the Davidson player won a vital point, he brought out a huge, "not so fast," finger wag — right in the faces of the loud guys on the sideline. But it didn't take long after that for Machado to correct the Wildcat's error, winning in two sets, 6-4, 7-6 (8). Goffi said the team support has helped the team to its fast start. "These guys are a tight knit group," Goffi said. "They love each other, they fight for each other, they bled together in practice, they bled together on the fields in training. So that creates a tight bond and they support each other, and that to me is the biggest change that we made from last year is that these guys will die for each other."



Stephanie Pope / THE DAILY GAMECOCK

Men's tennis will be competing indoors until Feb. 25, when the team will compete in the newly built Carolina Tennis Center.

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**WESTMORELAND ● Continued from 1**  
throws around the 'c' word," he said.

Westmoreland had lost his father to Mercer just four years earlier.

"After that, me and my mom got really close," he said. "She's followed me around and watched me play ball all my life, so it makes it kind of difficult whenever she has something like that."

Westmoreland's father passed away at the start of his senior year in high school. When his dad was sick, Westmoreland spent most of his time with him, so he didn't attend very many baseball games. In his senior year, he returned full-time to baseball, winning 2008 Mr. Baseball for South Carolina as well as the state championship with Brookland-Cayce High.

"It was one of those things where you grow up quick because you become more so the man of the household when it's just you and your mother there," Westmoreland said. "I stayed home to take care of her. I was drafted and everything, but I just kind of decided that I wanted to go to school and be close to her. I still live at home at 22 years old, which a lot of kids don't do. I don't regret anything I've done because I've shared a lot of experiences with her."

Westmoreland went with his mother to several of her chemo treatments, as did his brother.

"I have a large support group," Cindy Westmoreland said.

**'I feel like everything happens for a reason'**

The Westmorelands aren't strangers to cancer.

When Adam Westmoreland was growing up, he and his mother used to go to Pine Island when it sponsored a day for Camp Chemo in June. They'd cook hot dogs and burgers, as well as let the kids swim in the pool and the lake.

"Seeing some of the children that were going through that — I think it was a shock to see the little kids," Cindy Westmoreland said. "You just don't think of a child getting cancer. It was just a reality check that cancer can affect anybody. It doesn't matter what your age is."

For Adam Westmoreland, it taught him more about life, even at an early

age.

"People don't understand how much we take life for granted, as far as what we do on a daily basis," Adam Westmoreland said. "They don't understand that these kids are terminally ill. It's almost like their life is on a timeline, and we just go about our daily life and we complain about things and deal with our own struggles, but these kids are just happy to be here."

Even with a family of mostly Clemson fans, Adam Westmoreland decided to play baseball for South Carolina. He didn't know at the time how perfect of a fit it would be. Assistant baseball coach Chad Holbrook's son, Reece, is a leukemia survivor.

Holbrook reached out to the Teals, a South Carolina family whose young son Baylor Teal had cancer, and offered support to the family because of his similar experience. The team began visiting Teal in the hospital during the 2010 season, when Westmoreland was sitting out with his Tommy John's surgery. Teal, whom the team had

formed a relationship with over the course of the season, passed away while the team was playing Oklahoma in the College World Series in Omaha, Neb.

When the Gamecocks returned to Omaha the next year, they visited the Children's Hospital and Medical Center and also had Charlie Peters — a cancer patient that coach Ray Tanner's USC team had visited in the hospital eight years earlier — be the batboy for the games. Peters, now 13, is cancer-free.

"I actually met [Peters] and his little sister whenever we went to Omaha this year," Westmoreland said. "We all went to the Children's Hospital, and that was really cool to see that he's been through everything and beat it. I just think it takes strong people to go through stuff like that."

Several members of the team also shaved their heads last season to raise awareness for Camp Chemo. With a team that has such a strong affiliation to cancer charity, Westmoreland has found support from his coaches and his teammates. Jackie Bradley Jr. and Matt

Price have visited Cindy Westmoreland and Tanner frequently asks about her, as does the rest of the team.

"I feel like everything happens for a reason," Adam Westmoreland said. "It makes it awesome to see the time that we spend with other people that have been through stuff and things like that. It makes for really cool stories. Whenever we went to Omaha and went to the Children's Hospital, it makes you appreciate life a lot."

**'It's a thrill'**

Westmoreland said that he and Holbrook have talked about how cancer has touched both of their families, but it's more of a "stay-strong type of thing."

"All of the coaches ask me how she's doing and keep up with everything that's going on as far as when she has treatment," Westmoreland said. "I know that the thing that coach Holbrook's son had was really hard for him to deal with. I know that he understands what it's like going through something like that. It makes it a lot easier to have people around you that have been through it."

"Breast cancer is such a common thing now that you find that with a lot of guys you talk to, someone in their family has either had it or is going through it now. Coach Tanner has told me stories of people that he knows have been through it."

As Cindy Westmoreland prepares to hopefully close the door on cancer for good, she looks forward to when she can return to Carolina Stadium to see her son pitch. Even in an interview about herself, she tries to keep the focus on Adam, saying how proud she is of him.

"It's a parent's dream to watch their child get to do what they've dreamed of doing," Cindy Westmoreland said. "He has always wanted to play baseball since he was five years old. The first time I remember seeing him take the mound at Carolina, tears just ran down my face because it's what every parent wants for their child — to see them accomplish their goal. It's a thrill."

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Richard Pearce / THE DAILY GAMECOCK

Pitcher Adam Westmoreland finished the 2011 season with a 5.77 ERA in 11 games.